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ARMY AND NAVY

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. — Structural work has been completed on the three big iron towers back of Fort Myer that are to form the biggest wireless station in the world. Two of the towers are 450 feet high and the last one that has just been finished is 600 feet, but to look at it this tower seems scarcely higher than the others. The power plant at the base is also nearly finished. Some of the machinery has been installed and other pieces are ready to be set up.

During the completion of the big tower, curiously enough, there has been some trouble getting painters who could endure the altitude while painting them. There was no trouble about the structural ironworkers, but many of the painters got chills when sent up the big tower.

One of them the other day got up 300 feet and, hastily descending, cut across the fields for Washington, it is said, and did not even stop for any of the wages due him.

The station is being built by the Bureau of Yards and Docks. When completed it will be turned over to the naval officers to work. The range ordinarily is expected to be from 2,000 to 2,500 miles, but occasionally what is known as a "freak message" will be picked up at much greater distances. One purpose of the station will be to act as an experimental station and laboratory for much of the navy wireless work.

Through a little proviso attached to that section of the naval appropriation act which was intended to prevent the crew of a naval vessel from doing any work upon her while in a navy yard that might deprive the civilian shopmen of employment, it appears that no considerable increase in the navy yard work will be available after all. This proviso was that the provision "shall not apply to such ordinary duties as are engaged in by the crew while at sea."

Now, as a matter of fact, while seeking to find a means to effect all of the needed ship repairs within the narrow limits of the available appropriations, the Navy Department officials discovered that the duties in a repair yard that a modern ship's crew can perform "while at sea" comprise practically nine-tenths of the work required to be done upon a ship. Boilers can be retubed at sea, electric wiring can be done, machinery can be overhauled and new parts made, and, in fact, save painting the ship's bottom, which must be done in dock, and lifting off the big turret guns, the modern bluejacket can do most everything while afloat on the blue sea that could be done in a navy yard.

So the ship's mechanics will continue to keep their vessels in repair without calling upon the navy yard workmen more than they have done in the past.

Fireman Ben. P. Spindler, attached to the U. S. S. Nashville, and Seamen John B. McGuire and Henry O. Mahn, attached to the U. S. S. Connecticut, have been officially commended by the acting secretary of the navy for heroism in rescuing from drowning shipmates who had accidentally fallen overboard. They are young men and have been in the navy about three years. Spindler hails from Phillips, Wis.; McGuire from East Braintree, Mass., and Mahn from Jamaica Plains, Mass.

Col. Henry P. Birmingham of the Medical Corps has been relieved from duty in the surgeon general's office, War Department, and placed in command of the Walter Reed General Hospital near Brightwood. He relieves Col. Charles Richard, who is transferred to duty in charge of the Army Medical School in this city as the relief of Col. Louis A. La Garde of the Medical Corps.

Col. H. C. Lauchheimer, adjutant and inspector of the Marine Corps, who was one of the officers of that corps transferred from this city to the Philippines as a result of an investigation several years ago, and is now at San Francisco, in charge of the Pacific inspection district, has been ordered back to this city for duty at headquarters of the corps. He will be relieved of charge of the marine Pacific inspection district by Col. H. C. Haines, assistant adjutant and inspector, now on duty at marine headquarters in this city.

Lieut. Col. Peyton C. March of the 6th Field Artillery, who has been detailed for service in the adjutant general's department, has been assigned to duty as adjutant general of the Central Division, with headquarters at Chicago. He relieves Col. William A. Simpson, who has been assigned to duty at New York as adjutant general of the Eastern Division.

Lieut. Gen. S. B. M. Young, retired, governor of the Soldiers' Home, and Gen. George H. Torney, surgeon general, have been ordered to make an inspection of the United States military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and the branch military prison at Alcatraz, Cal.

For the first time in a year the American flag will be carried into Mexican ports by the friendly visit of warships. The gunboat Vicksburg has been ordered to proceed at once down the west coast of Mexico and the cruiser Des Moines will proceed as early as possible down the east coast.

It is stated officially at the State Department that the dispatch of warships to Mexico at this time is not for the purpose of looking after American interests nor to investigate conditions. Mexico has been officially notified of the forthcoming visits of the warship. It is understood the Madero government has sent a friendly reply to the notification.

A report which has appeared in various newspapers to the effect that the fourth class of midshipmen at the

Naval Academy admitted during the year 1913 would enter in February next was declared to be erroneous. The first examination should be held in February and the second examination in April, but no medical examination will be held until early in June, so that no midshipman of that class will enter until June.

It is hoped at the Navy Department that the entire class may be installed by July 1, in order that all may have the full benefit of three months' instructions before the beginning of the academic terms, in October.

Nine bandsmen in the United States Army have been ordered to proceed to Fort Jay on Governor's Island, N. Y., not later than September 26 in order to compete for five scholarships at the Institute of Musical Art of New York city for the year 1913-14. They are Corp. James G. Prewitt, mand. 26th Infantry, Fort Wayne, Mich.; Sergt. Frank A. Bowen, band, 6th Cavalry, Fort Des Moines, Iowa; Chief Musician Alfred J. Thomas, band, 10th Cavalry, Fort Ethan Allen, Vt.; Principal Musician Augustus C. Pentland, 24th Recruit Company (band), Fort Logan, Colo.; Sergt. Frank Frank, band, 6th Field Artillery, Fort Riley, Kan.; Privates Elmer V. Sorensen and Manuel Comulada, 5th Band, Coast Artillery Corps, Fort Hamilton, N. Y.; Private Chris C. Hunter, 7th Band, Coast Artillery Corps, Fort Adams, R. I.; Private William C. Whit, 10th Band, Coast Artillery Corps, Fort Banks, Mass.; Principal Musician Geo. A. Horton, band, 3d Cavalry, Fort Sam Houston, Tex.

A booklet of "plain talk" to ship captains, telling how they may keep their craft clean of plague, yellow fever, smallpox, cholera, typhus and other scourges, has just been issued by the United States public health service. The booklet is termed "an open letter to ship captains," and was written by L. E. Cofer, assistant surgeon general and chief of the bureau of foreign and insular quarantine.

Going on the theory that every master wants to keep his ship out of quarantine, the service has published the little talk to convince shipmasters how they may make quarantine unnecessary. How the immense cost and loss which goes with fumigating a ship after disease may be avoided is fully explained.

In language that a layman may understand, the booklet explains the causes and symptoms of the plagues, how the infections are carried and how they may be defeated. The booklet says that captains who follow its instructions may keep their ships clean of disease and save much money for their owners.

Printed on the cover of the booklet are the following words:

"Rate away plague, mosquitoes carry yellow fever."

"Plague and yellow fever cause quarantine."

"Quarantine means expense."

"Ship captains destroy your rats and mosquitoes, and not only save your owners money, but save lives."

Secretary Meyer has philosophically accepted the one battleship program of Congress, and has already named the new marine monster the Pennsylvania. The armored cruiser of that name will be rechristened probably Harrisburg, or given the name of some other city. The Secretary points out that notwithstanding all the talk in Congress about a "terror of the seas," the new vessel will be of normal development, and if she is larger than any battleship afloat it will be no more than could be said of each of the other big ships launched and commissioned in succession since he has been Secretary of the Navy, in accordance with the harmonious system of development which the naval constructors have been consistently following for years.

The general features of the Pennsylvania were worked out and adopted in the early spring, and formed the basis for the department's estimate for the construction of two such ships. She will be 630 feet long, of about 31,000 tons, with twelve four-teen-inch guns and exceptionally heavy armor.

Col. Rogers Birnie of the ordnance department, in charge of ordnance work at the army proving ground at Sandy Hook, N. J., has been selected to act as chief of the ordnance at the War Department while Brig. Gen. William Crozier, chief of ordnance, serves his detail as president of the Army War College, at the Washington barracks. The change takes effect September 1 next.

Col. Birnie graduated at the head of his class at the Military Academy in 1872, and after two years of service in the infantry arm was transferred to the ordnance department, and has served therein to date. During his early career he commanded one of the parties of the Wheeler survey and travelled about 5,000 miles on muleback. He has been prominently identified with the development of modern ordnance and has contributed materially to improvements in guns, projectiles and ammunition. He has spent several years in Europe in ordnance study and is the author of several standard works on technical subjects.

During the Spanish war he was chief ordnance officer of the 7th Army Corps and of the Division of Cuba. Since then he has had charge of many important ordnance tests at Sandy Hook.

Capt. John Hood, commanding the battleship Delaware, received the battleship efficiency pennant as Assistant Secretary of the Navy Beekman Winthrop. Mr. Winthrop left Washington on the President's yacht Mayflower for Hampton roads, where the battleship fleet is rendezvoused. Accompanying the secretary



were rear Admiral Hutch I. Cone, chief of the bureau of steam engineering, and Lieut. Commander Thomas T. Craven, director of target practice and engineering competition. The battleship efficiency pennant is the most prized of the awards given for excellence in competition. A pennant is given to the vessel having the highest combined averages in the gunnery and engineering competitions for the year. The pennant is carried by the winning vessel for a year. The U. S. S. Michigan has held the pennant for the last year.

Assistant Secretary Winthrop presented to Capt. Hood a letter of congratulation from the President, and Capt. Hood was directed to submit to the department the names of nine officers of his ship who, in his opinion, contributed the most to the success of his vessel.

RELATION BETWEEN FORESTS AND FLOODS

Bradstreet's, August 24: We have before this directed attention to some differences of opinion between experts regarding the relation between forestation and floods. Some time ago Chief Moore of the National Weather Bureau, in a report prepared for the House Committee on Agriculture, declared that precipitation controls forestation, but that forestation has little or no effect upon precipitation; that spring floods come oftener from the forest than from the open; that the disastrous effects of soil erosion have been exaggerated, and that erosion is not always an unmixed evil. Among other things, he said in the report referred to that the evidence was strong that the cutting away of the forests had had nothing to do with creating or augmenting droughts. A different view appears to be taken in a report just made to the National Forest Commission by Director George Otis Smith of the Geological Survey. The last mentioned report is based upon studies which experts have been making for over a year in New Hampshire on large adjacent tracts of forested and deforested areas similar in every other respect, geologically, in altitude, and in average slope of land. The report concludes that a direct relation exists between forest cover and stream regulation, and that there is a pronounced difference in the rate of disappearance of snow from the forested and the cutover areas. It was observed that forested streams are steadier, and in proportion to their drainage area they tend, at least in the spring months, to promote a steady flow of water to the main streams of which they are tributaries. The experts noted in the tracts observed by them that the forested areas added to its ground water storage while the other drew in large amounts upon its storage water. The maximum flow in the forested area was only from 45 to 71 per cent of that in the other area, and the runoff only from 42 to 63 per cent. These results are of decided interest; it is needless to say that they are more in consonance with previously accepted views than are those of Chief Moore.

ENGLAND MUSTERS TERRITORIAL FORCES

LONDON, Eng.—The recent muster of the territorial force for annual training brought out some 150,000 officers and men. Nearly two-thirds of the infantry of the force were under canvas, and there was a considerable turn-out of the other arms as well. In addition to these three school camps were formed, two for the junior division of the officers' training corps and one for the secondary schools. A marked feature of the present muster was the large number of camps along the coast line. This had the double advantage of giving the men a short time by the sea, and also of familiarizing them with the coast counties, where it is to be presumed they would be engaged in case of an invasion of Great Britain.

The instruction given during the recent training was of a more elementary character than that which was imparted a few years ago, and the idea of working the troops as "war divisions" has been abandoned in favor of the less showy but more practical company drill, followed by battalion instruction, and concluding with just a glimpse of higher work, with the object, doubtless, of showing what the previous preparation was leading up to.

BACILLUS FOR CATTLE DISEASE IS FOUND

Doctor Siegel, a Prussian physician, has announced the discovery of the germ of foot-and-mouth disease which has been so destructive to domestic animals in the Philippines. The germ has been submitted to all of the tests which the fundamental law of Koch demands. The germs can be recovered from the blood as well as from the vesicles on the gums of the animals affected. It can be grown in pure culture, and an animal inoculated by the culture develops the foot-and-mouth disease. The germ has been named cytorrhynchus.—Mindanao, P. I. Herald.

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